

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been amended to overcome the obviousness rejection of U.S. Pat. No. 4,472,461 and other patents that purport to disclose adhesive bandages. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification at, for example, page 6, ll. 21-24.

Obviousness Rejection

Claim 7-9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson. (U.S. Pat. No 4472461) ("Johnson") in view of either Hodgson (U.S. Pat. No. 3645835) ("Hodgson"), Metcalfe (U.S. Pat. No. 4559938) ("Metcalfe"), Tani et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4789413) ("Tani"), Ward (U.S. Pat. No. 5000172) ("Ward"), Kay (U.S. Pat. No. 5713842) ("Kay"), Plews (U.S. Pat. No. 5755681) ("Plews"), or Takemoto (EP 0353972) ("Takemoto").

For the reasons set forth below, the rejection is traversed.

Claim 7 has been amended herein to recite, in part, that "said apertures are structured and arranged such that said sides walls of said apertures protrude away from the second surface and project outward from said first surface." It is respectfully submitted that none of the of the cited reference disclose or suggest such a structure when read together with the other elements recited in claim 7.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative if any further action will expedite the prosecution of the application or if the Examiner has any suggestions or questions concerning the application or the present Response. In fact, if the claims of the application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP § 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP § 706.03 so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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